

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed **September 10, 2003** the Examiner reviewed claims 1-24. Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schneider et al (USPN 6,105,027, hereinafter “Schneider”).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Independent claims 1, 9, and 17 were rejected as being anticipated by Schneider. Applicant respectfully points out that Schneider is directed to controlling access to resources at clients in a network using access filters, which encrypt messages **on the network** (see Schneider, Abstract and col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 22).

In contrast, the present invention relates to controlling access to sensitive data within a database using encryption on the sensitive data **within the database** (see page 6, line 26 to page 7, line 2 of the instant application). Encrypting sensitive data within the database is advantageous because it prevents unauthorized access to the encrypted data while allowing access to unencrypted data. The system of Schneider allows access to all of the data within a database once access is granted by the access filters to the client and server. There is nothing within Schneider, either explicit or implicit, which would suggest an advantage to encrypting sensitive data within a database.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 17 to clarify that sensitive objects are encrypted within the database system. These amendments find support on page 6, line 26 to page 7, line 2 of the instant application.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, and 17 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-8, which depend upon claim 1, claims 10-16, which depend upon claim 9, and claims 18-24, which depend upon claim 17, are for the same reasons in

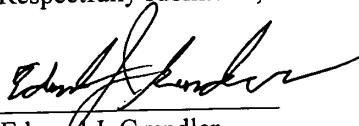
condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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